



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4

ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960
OCT 31 2008

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Natural Resources Defense Council
1200 New York Avenue, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20005

Subject: Response to the Petition to Withdraw Approval of Florida's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Authority

On March 19, 2004, you filed a petition to withdraw approval of Florida's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) authority on behalf of your organization, the Sierra Club, and Linda Young. That petition raised a number of issues regarding Florida's NPDES permitting and enforcement activities that you alleged were not in accordance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act and its implementing regulations. Enclosed please find the Environmental Protection Agency's response to that petition. Attachments that are referenced in the response are enclosed as a compact disc.

I have conducted an informal evaluation of the issues raised in your petition, and the documentation you provided with the petition, to determine whether there is cause to commence formal withdrawal proceedings of Florida's NPDES authorization, pursuant to 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) § 123.64(b)(1). I have also considered information about those issues that was provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

For the reasons detailed in the enclosed decision document, I have determined your petition does not meet the criteria set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 123.64(b)(1) and that there is no cause to commence formal withdrawal proceedings of Florida's NPDES authorization. Therefore, I deny your request based on all issues raised.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms. Carol Baschon, Associate Regional Counsel, at 404-562-9528.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. I. Palmer, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Michael W. Sole, FDEP
David Bookbinder, Sierra Club
Eric Huber, Sierra Club
Linda Young